



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Massachusetts State Office

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Massachusetts state and local governments, nongovernmental organizations and tribes may apply for federal farmland protection program

AMHERST, MA (March 31, 2009) – The Massachusetts state office of the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service is now accepting applications from state and local units of government, federally recognized Tribes, and non-governmental organizations for the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP). FRPP provides up to 50 percent matching funding for the purchase of conservation easements on agricultural lands.

Landowners may not apply directly to NRCS for this program. NRCS only accepts FRPP applications from eligible entities that have a farmland protection program that purchases agricultural conservation easements for the purpose of protecting agricultural use and related natural resource conservation benefits.

Applications for federal funding must be submitted by 4:30 pm on May 15, 2009 to the NRCS State Office, 451 West Street, Amherst, MA, 01002. For more information on FRPP in Massachusetts, visit <http://www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/frpp.html> or contact Barbara Miller, State Resource Conservationist, at 413-253-4380 or barbara.miller@ma.usda.gov.

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